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COUNTRY Poland
SUBJECT School System

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1. The Government has concentrated on the establishment of professional schools to train cadres of qualified workers and technicians for industry. As a result, general educational facilities have been neglected. Of Poland's 21 thousand elementary schools, only 900 accommodate and teach eight grades, approximately 5,000 are for two grades, and 5,108 are for one grade. More than 3,000 communities are without schools of any type, and there is an over-all shortage of approximately 15 thousand teachers. Because of these inadequacies, more than 600 thousand Polish children between the ages of seven and fourteen are deprived of schooling.
2. Poland's school system is being converted to a state monopoly in which private institutions will cease to exist. Concurrently with this structural change there is a change in the substance and method of teaching. Instructors stress the so-called class war and the socialistic reconstruction of national economy. They tell a distorted history of Poland designed to foster friendliness toward the USSR and hatred toward reactionaries at home and abroad. Army officers are widely used as lecturers to propound communist doctrines not only in elementary and high schools but in factories and large shops.
3. The Ministry of Education recently made teaching of the Russian language compulsory in elementary and high schools. Students were assured that the action was in accordance with their parents' wishes.
4. During the 1947-1948 school year a School of Social Service was activated at Katowice. Even the most practical subjects offered at the school are taught from a Marxist point of view and are mixed with communist propaganda. The manager of the school is Babas (fau), an electrotechnician and a pre-war Communist. Of the school's 20 lecturers, 18 are Communists and the remaining two are Socialists. The student body shows a divided organizational loyalty as follows:

PPK.....	403
ZWA.....	205
ONTUR.....	61
PP3.....	21
SL.....	2
GP.....	1

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The students' educational backgrounds are also varied; 309 had elementary school training, 120 completed high school, 258 attended high school for two or three years, and only five are university graduates.

5. At a mining school for 10-16 year old boys in Ludwikow, Kladzko County, students are forced to perform eight hours of manual labor per day in addition to their classroom work which consists of political lectures. Many of the children suffer from overwork and poor food.
6. The PPR activist, Leon Kopinski, recently conducted an unsuccessful enlistment drive for the ZMW in Kladzko. He finally forced the local high school superintendent to let him assume the teaching of history and current events to the older high school students. Before convening his classes, Kopinski distributed ZMW enlistment forms to the students. When no signed forms were returned, Kopinski told the students "we will see at examination time; it is I who will then decide who passes and goes to college."
7. Minister of Education Skrzyszewski constantly stresses his ministry's desire to co-operate with the ZNP (Zwiazek Nauczycieli Polskich - Association of Polish Teachers). He stated that ZNP has achieved much in the educational field and in the fight for democracy in the schools. He warned ZNP, however, against a repetition of the attack it made on the Government's educational policies at a ZNP congress in Bytom. This warning was echoed by Berek, superintendent of schools in Slask-Dabrowa Province, who stated on 15 Nov 47: "teachers and their leaders who breathe the Bytom atmosphere and wish to influence other teachers will be ousted from their schools and their associations."
8. Teachers have received no salary increases but the Government has raised their over-time pay coefficient from 135 to 400 slotys per hour for teachers in professional schools, and to 1,000 slotys per hour for academic teachers.
9. An additional compensation for teachers is their access to such special schools and courses as the following:
 - (a) WKR (Wyszy Kurs Nauczycielski - Higher Courses for Teachers)
 - (b) Pedagogical Institutes (Instytut Pedagogiczny)
 - (c) Institute for Handicrafts
 - (d) CINF (Centralny Instytut Wychowania Fizycznego - Central Institute of Physical Training)
10. Teachers also have access to universities and mass courses of four weeks duration. During the 1946-1947 school year a total of 19,381 teachers attended the 398 mass courses which were organized. The Ministry of Education expects to increase the number of these courses during the 1947-1948 school year, and to institute additional courses for training ideological educators (politruks). Only graduates of ideological courses will be considered for teaching positions.
11. On 27 Nov 47 a three-day conference of university and college presidents was held in Warsaw. Among the government officials attending were Berman, Skrzyszewski, Kaczorowski, Krasowska, and Jablonski. The conference established a new body designated as the Chief Council for Learning and Higher Education (Rada Glowna Nauki i Szkol Wyzszych). In announcing formation of this new organ, Bokorski, President of the Council of Higher Schooling, stated that it would be the "academic senate" with complete control of educational planning and personnel.

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